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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Korea	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Removal of Chinese Residents from North Korea	DATE DISTR.	18 November 1953
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	50X1-HUM

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1. [redacted] there were 45,402 Chinese residents in North Korea. Ninety percent of the Chinese were natives of Shantung Province, and most of them had lived in Korea for several decades. [redacted] in response to an order issued by the Chinese Communist authorities, 40,000 Chinese returned to China.¹ In Hwanghae Province only 215 Chinese remained. 50X1-HUM
2. The Chinese who were returning to China submitted their applications to their gun police station through their local Chinese Residents' League.² They were authorized to take all their money and property with them if they declared it in their papers. The police stations forwarded the applications to the Chinese Embassy. From there one of the copies was sent to one of three Chinese residents' service stations at Sinuiju (N 40-06, E 124-23) (XE-1839), Chunggangjin (N 41-47, E 126-53) (CB-2427) and Hoeryong (N 42-26, E 129-45) (EB-6298). At the service station the returning Chinese were questioned on their ideology, and their possessions were checked. All money and other belongings which had not been declared were confiscated, and the owner had to stay one or two months at the service station undergoing self-criticism. Travelers had to give detailed personal history statements, and if any discrepancies were noted, they had to remain at the service station until their stories were clarified. After the travelers had passed the investigations, they were issued passports in which their properties and destinations were described. Before starting out, the returning Chinese were promised freedom to live wherever they chose, but most of them were sent to areas near Mongolia and to undeveloped areas in Kirin Province. When the travelers arrived in China, about half their property was confiscated as a forced donation to the "Resist U.S. and Aid North Korea" fund.
3. Official announcements by the Chinese Communist authorities stated that the return to China was not compulsory, but officials of the Chinese Residents' League used threats to persuade people to leave. The Chinese Communist authorities were afraid that the Chinese residents would flee to South Korea, and considered them

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a threat to the war effort. The authorities wanted the residents to return to China where their property would be confiscated and they would be subject to "brain washing." SONG Song-sin (5116/2052/1957), chairman of the Changyon-gun Chinese Residents' League, threatened the Chinese residents of his gun with an automatic rifle and took their land deeds away from them. YIM Ch'i-kyong (2651/3112/0615), chairman of the Hwanghae Province Chinese Residents' League, in a speech to the people of Changyon-gun, threatened that [redacted] forces might occupy Hwanghae Province and massacre all the Chinese residents. The Hwanghae Province Chinese Residents' League removed 250 people [redacted] 1,200 people [redacted] and 987 people [redacted] between [redacted]. Another removal campaign was scheduled [redacted].

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4. Most of the Chinese residents who remain in North Korea did not want to return to China as they feared that living conditions would be poorer and that they might be drafted or conscripted as forced laborers.
5. The North Korean authorities did not approve the forced removal of the Chinese residents. [redacted] the Changyon-gun branch of the North Korean Labor Party and officials of the Changyon Police Station told the Chinese who did not want to go home that they could stay because there were North Korean people residing in China. The North Korean officials also promised to protect the Chinese residents. The Changyon People's Committee returned the land deeds which had been confiscated by Chinese officials who were trying to force the Chinese residents to return to China.

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1. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] concerning the removal of Chinese residents from North Korea.

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2. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] on the Chinese Residents' League in North Korea.

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